

CATHERINE SCHELL



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CAREER SHOTS

**EXCLUSIVE** *WISH  
ME LUCK*



**Shirley Henderson, Catherine Schell and  
Felicity Montagu in 'Wish Me Luck': 7.15pm**

Dear members,

welcome back to another issue of CAREER SHOTS, featuring this time lots of stories from magazines and newspapers on WISH ME LUCK, two movie-reviews and a 12-page-pullout in the middle of the magazine containing a SPACE:1999-story 'Flight into uncertainty'. Hope you like it. But as always let's start with



## CATHERINE'S

# news

Catherine wishes everybody a happy new year.

Her mother is making a slow recovery but she is getting better now.

For the Christmas holidays 1989 she went to France with her husband. Right after she had returned, she started rehearsing for a play she is doing in Leatherhead near London, opening February 27th for three weeks. There will probably also be a tour after these three weeks.

Catherine has appeared in several programmes on Television recently. On ITV (GB) there was a feature programme called THIS IS YOUR LIFE, and the November issue featured Yvonne Cormeau, who was surprised on the set of WISH ME LUCK. She and the cast of the series, including Catherine Schell, then went to the studio. During the programme Catherine sat in the audience. For more TV-news see page 31.

Catherine did another programme for the BBC called MARCH ON EUROPE. It will be shown in all EEC countries on the same day, in the last week of May, when a European conference about ecology and the third world is being held. The story of the programme is about the wealth in Europe and the poorness in Africa under the theme 'We are not gonna allow to let the poor people in the world die'.

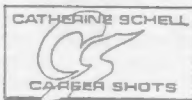
Catherine plays the wife of a European businessman and has a very tiny part. She has only four lines to say, that is almost the smallest part of her acting career (apart from ASSIGNMENT K, in which she only laughs and screams, but she is longer to see on the screen there.)

But, she says, the programme is so good and important, that she just HAD to have a part in it. Look forward to it, and don't oversee her! Also watch out for the MERCI Chocolate TVadvert for Mother's day.

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Special thanks this time for information supplies to Stephen Nelmes, Martin Willey, Franco Dell'Ernia, Daryl Bartosh - and, of course, Catherine Schell herself.

The next issue of CAREER SHOTS features Catherine's answers to questions on RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER, SPACE:1999, ON HER MAJESTY'S SECRET SERVICE, humour in movies and many more - so be surprised.



## READER'S MEETING POINT

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Kerry Keene  
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Since this letter will not appear in "Career Shots" until after the holidays, I want to take this opportunity to say that I hope that all of our members had a good holiday season and that the new year brings prosperity and joy to us all. And let's also wish Catherine great success in the new year and here's also wishing that her latest effort "Wish Me Luck" meets with great acclaim.

I received a card from a pen pal of mine in England late last year, and he said that Catherine appeared on a show called "This is Your Life". The show also had the other cast members from "Wish Me Luck" and the woman on which the series is based. It was a tribute to her and the underground forces in France who fought against Nazi oppression. I hope that we in the US are going to be able to see it when the series "Wish Me Luck" appears early in 1990.

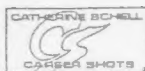
Now, let me tell you a little about myself. I'm 38 years old and I'm a native Floridian. There aren't many of us left because it seems that everyone from other parts of the country are moving down to Florida for some reason or another. I have a degree in computer science and I am currently working for the US government in the Internal Revenue Service department as a programmer and end user service representative. My division solves the problems of computer users in the district.

My hobbies include SF, sports, video (VCR technology, movies, TV (although less enjoyment in recent years), writing, making new pen pals, and collecting anything on "Space: 1999".

I first saw Catherine Schell in the film "On Her Majesty's Secret Service" in 1969, but at the time, I didn't know who this beautiful woman was. It wasn't until I saw her in "Space: 1999" that I became a fan of hers. She came across as a fine actress, but more important, she seems to be a very nice person. I now know that she is all of these things.

Finally, I want to thank all of the fans of Catherine for their dedication to such a fine individual and with all of us getting involved, we can be sure that this club will last for many years. Well, that ends this letter, except to say thanks to Michael Evermann for having the foresight to get in contact with Catherine and for starting a club in her honor. Thanks Michael. Until next time, take care, all of you.





REVIEW 1: By Daryl Bartosh.

## The Return of the Pink Panther

Starring Peter Sellers  
as Inspector Jacques Clouseau  
Christopher Plummer  
as Sir Charles Litton  
Catherine Schell  
as Claudine Litton  
and Herbert Lom  
as Chief Inspector Dreyfus.  
The world's worst detective is  
back! Inspector Clouseau has  
been demoted to patrolman  
but when the famous Pink  
Panther diamond is stolen he  
is assigned to the case. He is  
sure he knows who the thief is  
and sets about catching them  
in his own inimitable fashion.  
Cato.....BURT KROCK  
Colonel Shaki.....PETER ARNE  
Chief of police.....GREGOIRE ASLAN  
Gen Wadafi.....PETER JEFFREY  
Mac.....DAVID LUCKE  
Produced and directed by  
BLAKE EDWARDS

Return of the Pink Panther, (1975, colour 119 min.)

### CAST:

Peter Sellers  
Christopher Plummer  
Catherine Schell  
Herbert Lom

Return of the Pink Panther is another one of Blake Edward's slapstick comedies of Peter sellers' Inspector Closeau, the bumbling, inept French detective.

This is the second of four Pink Panther films, about the elusive pink diamond that is aptly named the Pink Panther- so named for when it is held up in the light a flaw shows a springing panther.

The movie starts with the fabulous diamond being stolen by the notorious Sir Charles Litton (played by Plummer) and Closeau being called in to find it. The thief of course leaves Litton's calling card announcing his presence in the whole affair. Litton's wife, Lady Litton, is wonderfully played by Catherine Schell. She plays a key role in this movie, constantly being one step ahead of Closeau and leading him onto the wrong clues. She is both amusing and mischievous trying very hard to cause him much trouble, as he follows her trying to gain evidence about her husband. All the while she is acting convinced that her husband had stolen the diamond, he is in Lugash (the original origin of the diamond), trying to prove his innocence.

It is not until the end of the picture that we realize Lady Litton herself, had stolen the diamond and framed her husband - which has to be the ultimate as a test of his good faith because she was bored. Of course all this time Closeau has gotten himself in more trouble as his own boss (played by Lom ) wants him dead.

Catherine makes this movie even more enjoyable with her easy laughing with Sellers. One scene in particular comes to mind when she and he are in the hotel bar sharing drinks and smiles. Closeau makes her laugh uncontrollably , and you can tell right before the scene ends as she starts to choke because she is laughing so hard. If you haven't seen this movie it is a definite must for any fan, for it is probably one of her best pictures.

The editor is still in need of good, one or two-pages long reviews of Catherine's films or TV guest roles. For a special on MOON ZERO TWO in a future issue of CAREER SHOTS a review of this film is needed. Please send everything to the editor. Thanks.

You will find another review of LOOK BACK IN DARKNESS on page 29.



**W**HEN DIRECTOR BILL Hays lined up the first shots for the new series of *Wish Me Luck*, he was just a little nervous: staring back through the lens and pointing a Sten gun in his direction was his wife, actress Catherine Schell. "I'm told I took to holding a gun like a duck to water," Schell laughs. "My husband was quite frightened of me!"

Schell is just one of a host of newcomers to join *Wish Me Luck*. Based on the lives and adventures of the heroic women who volunteered to work behind enemy lines during World War Two, the new series sees the arrival of Shirley Henderson as Sylvie Schneider, a Viennese Jewess who strikes up a friendship with Kit Vanston (played by Michael J Jackson), and Felicity Montagu as Nicole, a Frenchwoman who's keen to help the Allies and the Resistance but is not all she might at first seem. Other additions to the team include classical actor Trevor Peacock as leader of the Resistance movement, Bryan Pringle as a priest whose holy orders give way to obeying orders from the Resistance, and Jeremy Nicholas as new volunteer Lewis.

Playing Virginia, the other new recruit to the movement, gives Schell a chance to get to grips with a few daredevil stunts, and add to the experience she gained in earlier series such as *The Adventurers* and cult space epic 1999. In *Wish Me Luck* she is airlifted into Le Crest, a mountainous plateau in the foothills of the Alps, which serves as the agents' main operation centre. The part also called for Virginia to ride a horse to a dramatic rendezvous with her ex-husband Guy (Glyn Grain) to exchange vital information.

Luckily, Schell is already a competent horsewoman, although she confesses to feeling a little apprehensive about the scene: "It's a long time since I'd done anything like this in an adventure yarn, so I thought to up my confidence I'd go and have proper lessons."



# WISH ME LUCK

**Wartime series *Wish Me Luck* is back with more stories of the lives of heroic women Resistance volunteers. Catherine Schell is the new recruit**



War effort: Jeremy Nicholas as Lewis, Michael J Jackson (Kit), Kate Buffery (Liz) and Schell

FROM  
TV GUIDE  
JAN 15-19 1992

As it turned out, the lessons were well worth it as, according to Schell, "some of the riding was a bit dangerous, although it was great fun".

Much of the filming was on location in France, mostly around the Vercors region, which was the site for the real-life wartime rebellion on which the story line is based.

The new series follows the Resistance as they attempt to carry out secret Allied instructions to stage a rising in the South of France, to divert Nazi manpower away from the D-day landings in Normandy.

Born in Hungary "at the very end of the war", Schell had moved to Austria, America and Munich before she had even left school. It was a Munich stage school production of *The Importance Of Being Ernest* that set the seal on her ambitions to become an actress. When Schell's mother wanted to test whether or not her daughter had the makings of a good actress, she took a top director to see the school production, without letting him know who her daughter was. When Schell made her entrance as Gwendoline, the man turned to her mother and said: "Whoever that girl is, she must continue."

Schell's acting career has continued, and gone from strength to strength. She has appeared on film, TV and the stage, including *Looking For Clancy*, where she met Hays, her second husband (who was directing) and went on to work with him on *A Month In The Country* and *The Tales Of Beatrix Potter*. Despite her varied experience, Schell still finds acting in the theatre a terrifying experience. "I'm sick to my stomach all day before I go on. Nevertheless, it's a thrill."

Schell also got a thrill from her part in *Wish Me Luck*, although she confesses she hates watching herself on TV. "It was a very exciting part," she says, "and I liked the way Virginia's character developed within the series from a ruthless and cold woman into a much softer person." JAMES GASKIN

**EXCLUSIVE:**

**Bond girl Catherine and**



**GUN GIRL:** Catherine is a spy in *Wish Me Luck*



**CO-STARS:** Catherine playing it for laughs with Peter Sellers in the *Inspector C*

# WISH ME LUCK

# SAVED SEL

***'He never really thought he'd made it as an actor'***

**F**ORMER James Bond girl Catherine Schell, who is joining ITV's hit wartime saga *Wish Me Luck*, has revealed how she saved Peter Sellers from suicide.

By PATRICK HILL

Catherine became a close friend of Sellers after starring opposite him in *Return of the Pink Panther* in 1974.

And during their relationship she received a string of desperate phone calls from the depressed superstar.

Hungarian-born Catherine—she leads a new squad of sexy girl secret agents in the next series of the French Resistance TV drama—revealed:

It happened twice. It was at night and I was alone in my room in

Peter would go into a deep, deep depression, call me and say he was suicidal.

I'd have to go and see him straight away, and he'd say: "Please stay." I'd sit and talk to him.

It was very strange. He'd talk about his

career—you see, he never really thought he'd made it.

He thought people didn't respect him.

I'd tell him: "You're crazy, Peter—of course people respect you. They love you. You're one of the funniest people in the world."

## **Proud**

He always said he'd never done anything he was really proud of, although I know he was very proud of his film *Being There*.

Unfortunately he wasn't around to enjoy his success, because he died before its release.

Despite Sellers's reputation for bedding a string of beautiful women, Catherine, 42, said that he never attempted to get her between the sheets.

She said: "We simply became tremendous

friends, and he confided in me.

"It was because he realised I wasn't going to use him, and that I didn't want anything from him apart from his friendship—unlike many of his lovers.

"He'd been in love with some of the most beautiful women in the world.

*"He'd say how Sophia Loren had loved him, but that another girl was treating him badly."*

"I'd tell him, 'You're choosing very wrong, I'm afraid.'"

"I became a support and a sounding board

for him. He trusted me.

"He was very rich and could be extremely generous, but I just wanted his company and to laugh at his jokes—and that's all he wanted."

"I'd tell him, 'You're not choosing the right ones. I'm afraid.'"

## **Married**

Their friendship continued until Sellers finally married actress Lynne Frederick in 1977. He died of a heart attack in 1980.

Blonde Catherine, who shot to fame in the 007 film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, spoke this week during a break from filming *Wish Me*

*Luck*—the bloodiest series yet—in the French Alps.

She plays an attractive divorcee who is recruited as an agent and dropped behind enemy lines. The new shows start screening next January.

In real life, Catherine knows all about fighting the Nazis.

Her uncle, who was President of Hungary at the outbreak of war, killed himself when the Germans seized control.

And she told how her father spent years hiding in the basement of their Budapest home, disguised as an old woman, after deserting from the



# I 'suicidal' Clouseau



Clouseau film Return of the Pink Panther



**BLOODY:** Kate Buffery and Michael J Jackson film in the Alps



**BLOODY:** Jane Snowden and Mark Anstee in the new Wish Me Luck

# STAR MILLERS' LIFE

German army—to which he had been conscripted.

Years later, in 1956, Catherine and her family had to flee for their lives when the Russians invaded Hungary.

Wish Me Luck is directed by Catherine's husband Bill Hays.

They met when she starred in the Seventies drama series Looking for Clancy.

## Cried

Bill left his wife and children for Catherine, and they wed in 1979.

She said: "When we eventually married I cried with happiness all the way through the ceremony. I couldn't even get the words out."

"Bill chose me for the part in Wish Me Luck—but at first he didn't even tell me about it."

"He kept it secret until one day he arrived home with a bottle of champagne."

FROM:

NEWS OF THE WORLD,

JULY 9, 1989



With an informer in the Resistance ranks, Virginia (Catherine Schell) and Phillipe (Glyn Grain) are in a difficult position in Wish Me Luck (HTV, Sunday, 7.15)

FROM: BRISTOL EVENING POST - FEB. 3, 1990

★ Catherine Schell, the real life Hungarian countess playing agent Virginia in wartime drama Wish Me Luck (ITV, Sunday), had her own brush with the Nazis as a child.

Living in Munich then Hungary, her father was forced to fight for Hitler, but he deserted and hid in a basement where the family survived the bombing of Budapest, dressing up as a old woman in a rocking chair and being passed off as his wife's aged nanny to fool the Gestapo.

The actress's husband is series director Bill Hays. They met when working on film Looking for Clancy in 1979 and married three years later.

The third episode marks the writing debut of actors Kate Buffery and Michael J Jackson. Collaborating on the script as an experiment, they submitted it to producer Michael Chaplin who was highly impressed. Now, the they intend to continue the partnership.

FROM: THE STAR - JAN 20, 1990

## BEHIND THE SCENES OF WISH ME LUCK



**WOMAN'S  
REALM**

—STORY SEE NEXT PAGES →

# WOMEN OF COURAGE

**F**OR most women the Second World War was a time of making do, and of loneliness while their husbands were on active service. But a select 50 or so women were plucked from their ordinary lives, rigorously trained, and sent by the Special Operations Executive (SOE) as secret agents to war-torn France. Their job — alongside some 400 male agents — was to keep the resistance alive and beat the Nazis at any cost.

Some had lost their husbands or brothers in the war and chose to take their place. Many left babies at home with husbands who often suspected them of being unfaithful. For others it was simply patriotism. All carried the heavy burden of deception, as they were forbidden to reveal their true identities to anyone — even their families. Often, to conceal what they were really up to, they wrote postcards to relatives and friends — before being parachuted into France.

It was a life fraught with danger, of fear about what lay ahead, or of being in the move. And of knowing that they would be tortured or executed if caught. They were women of exceptional courage.

The Germans caught and executed 13 of the original 53 women.

The stories of these brave young women sound more like fiction than fact. But they are the inspiration behind the top wartime drama, *Wish Me Luck*. What is so fascinating about this third and final series is that it's based on a real-life battle, known as the Vercours Rebellion. This follows an Allied instruction to these agents (known as the Outfit) and the French Resistance to stage an uprising in southern France — to divert German troops from the D-Day landings in Normandy.

As the six leading actresses in the series explain, most of the filming took place in and around Vercours.

**It is 1944. The D-Day landings are imminent. The war is near its end. *Wish Me Luck*, LWT's hit wartime saga, now in its third series, mirrors this period of conflict. Sarah Craske met six of the stars to discover what it was like acting out history...**

sequence you see my character, Virginia, galloping across a field and then jumping the horse — and it's always me you see.

"I spent eight weeks in France filming, mostly in Vercours, although we've changed the names of places and call it Le Crest. It's a stunning area — I loved it and even ended up buying a little property out there. We also filmed some of the landing scenes in Norfolk because it looks like the Camargue in the south of France.

"The series is a period piece, but also an adventure story based on fact. We tell it as it was too, which is important, and the English don't come out of it at all well.

"Our costumes, even our underwear are perfection. You can't have modern panty lines showing!

"The most unnerving incident, I suppose was me handling a sten gun. I'd never handled one before and I was given about two seconds to get used to it. But I took to it like a duck to water. There's one scene where I'm shooting towards the camera with blank bullets. Later the cameraman crept out from behind his camera and told me, 'I think the Countess [that's who I play] has had to deal with a few peasants in her day!'"

## EMILY



Jane Snowdon

Emily is the "key" wireless operator. Young and naïve, her emotions tend to cloud her effectiveness and judgment. Her on-off relationship with Resistance worker, Luc, is still on.

"I think this third series is the best because it's based on events that really happened. We worried as to whether we'd do the whole episode justice, but we've done a good job.

"As an actress you don't often have the chance to do many action scenes but I have in this. The night raids are really good fun to do, scrambling around in bushes with guns. Stunt men and women are used for really dangerous action and it's impressive watching them work. I remember clambering up a bank and screaming. Everyone panicked, came rushing to my rescue because they thought I'd hurt myself. All I'd done



was break a fingernail — nothing compared to what those courageous women really went through.

"The final episode shows the end of the war. It's been a wonderful experience — hard work, but exciting."

## LIZ



Kate Buffery

Leader Liz is back in England caring for her daughter, but when she hears how desperate the situation is for the agents in the field, she decides to return. She returns stronger and much more self-confident.

"I knew very little about the war before I did *Wish Me Luck*, but I've learnt a lot. Now I'm fascinated and actually co-wrote one script for this



series. It was very emotional seeing the town hall of Vercours (Le Crest) with Nazi flags on it and Nazi troops walking through. It must have been a bit traumatic for some of the old village lagers, too, as they looked out of their windows... 'My God, it's happening again.' One woman came running up to me in tears thanking me for everything I was doing and for saving them. I heard others shouting at the soldiers as they marched past.

"I only make a guest appearance



Catherine Schell

A former French resident, Virginia, now divorced, is an obvious recruit for the Outfit. But in Le Crest she meets her ex-husband, now a Vichy official. Each tries hard to persuade the other to go over to the other side.

"The reason I got a part in *Wish Me Luck*, is because I'm a good horse rider!" says Catherine. "I have my own horses at home. In the opening



Behind the scenes  
**WISH ME LUCK**



**ABOVE LEFT:** Faith with Gordon (Stuart McGugan). **ABOVE RIGHT:** Virginia with Phillipe (Glyn Grain). **BELOW:** Sylvie, Luc



everywhere as we started shooting because the war was obviously still so vivid in some people's minds. It was interesting, too, for some youngsters to see what went on where they live.

One of the bonuses for me was being outdoors so much of the time. I came home feeling so much healthier and fitter. I didn't have to wear lots of make-up or anything like that so my skin felt wonderful. It was great."

## FAITH



Jane Asher

Faith has been promoted to head of the Outfit in London. Cool and objective, she shows that she can be warm, too, as her previously professional relationship with the French liaison man in London develops.

"My role has been great fun to play. It's a very ruthless business I'm in, sending those agents off every week to a likely death. You have to be cool and unflappable all the time. In real life, I'm quite different. I don't think I'd have been brave enough to have been dropped into France as a spy, but who knows. If the future of your country depended on it..."

"I get to wear some much smarter clothes this time. I love that tailored look — lots of square-shouldered suits. I also wear some very pretty black silk dresses and lots of hats."

"One day, when we were filming in London's Pall Mall, I had to get from the 'pretend HQ' we'd created to the make-up caravan. I looked ghastly, wearing one of those '40s-style hats, lots of make-up, a scruffy old dressing gown and very clumpy shoes. As I was making my way down the road, two American tourists stopped me to ask directions. They didn't bat an eyelid — probably just thought I was an eccentric Englishwoman!"

## NICOLE



Felicity Monaghan

Nicole is French and hasn't led an easy life. She quickly befriends Emily and is desperately keen to align herself to the Outfit and the Resistance. But can she be trusted?

"There seems to be a lot of prejudice in this country towards the French. But, for me, it was a privilege to have the chance to work in France and a lot of fun, too. The French are terrific. It's difficult for today's generation to understand what happened during the war. My brother is married to a French girl, so it was useful for me to be able to talk to her and her family about these wartime events from their point of view. We mostly filmed near the Alps, a wonderful area. It looked like a scene from the television film, *Hotel du Lac*.

"Although it was a heavy filming schedule, I managed to go to the

Maquis Museum in Grenoble. It was one tiny room dedicated to the local people who suffered so terribly.

"It was then that I realised it was just an ordinary person's war fought by ordinary people."

## SYLVIE



Shirley Henderson

A young, slightly naïve Viennese Jewess, Sylvie provides a "safe house" for agent Kit Vanston. But Sylvie's mother is being driven insane by the presence of the Nazis who have killed her husband.

"I was completely taken aback by the whole experience of going to France to film. I've never been to France before so that was enjoyable. But the story we tell of what happened in Vercours is so incredible. Some of the local people we hired as extras have fascinating stories of their own to tell. There was total silence

**Smuggling wireless sets on a train full of Nazi officers. . . cycling 70 miles through the mountains and through enemy checkpoints. . . escaping arrest and being arrested. . . and simply not surviving. These are some of the stories recounted by writer Liane Jones in her new book, *A Quiet Courage, Women Agents In The French Resistance*, to be published later this month by Bantam Press.**

**Liane spent two years interviewing some of the women agents, most only in their 20s, who fought this undercover war — and survived.**

**ABOVE:** wounded Jean Louis with fellow Resistance workers. **LEFT:** Emily with Resistance worker Luc (Mark Anstee)



at the end of this series. The first year we were in France was the best for me because it was new and exciting. Like being in love for the first time — that feeling you never quite regain.

"I think we all laughed pretty well non-stop throughout. There's something intrinsically funny about filming. It can look like you're driving along at great speed sitting in the back of a lorry, when in reality someone is shaking the lorry like mad to make it look like you're moving!"



FROM:  
LENS OF THE  
WORLD  
JAN. 7 1990

Bang on target! That's Michael J. Jackson and Catherine Schell in the new series *Wish Me Luck* on ITV at 7.15pm



## 7.15-8.15pm ITV **Wish Me Luck**

**NEW!** Can anyone still take the French Resistance seriously after the fun, frolics and fake French accents of 'Allo, 'Allo? ITV can. They've dished out £6 million for the third series of *Wish Me Luck*, their popular World War Two drama about British agents working undercover in occupied France. With new faces, a new setting and a new story line—involving an attempt to stage a rising in the south to divert German troops from the D-Day landings—this is just about as far away as you can get from Rene's café. Catherine Schell joins the series as new recruit Virginia, with Felicity Montagu as Nicole, a Frenchwoman who isn't all she seems, and Shirley Henderson as Sylvie, a Viennese Jewess who provides a safe house. (See feature, page 60.)

FROM: TV GUIDE

FROM:

DAILY MIRROR, JAN. 6, 1990

## TRIGGER HAPPY

FORMER Bond girl Catherine Schell had a spot of bother getting to grips with her latest TV role as a British agent.

She was appearing in the wartime saga *Wish Me Luck* and says: "They gave me a sten gun and I didn't know one end of the thing from the other. I had never handled a weapon before.

"An armourer gave me instructions and I thought I looked the part in my action scene.


"I had a grim look on my face and sprayed the enemy with bullets.

"I couldn't understand why the cameraman fell about laughing—until I found out I had my little finger cocked as if I was delicately holding a cup of tea." Catherine, who

by TONY PURNELL

shot to fame in the 007 film *On Her Majesty's Secret Service*, is joined by Felicity Montagu and Shirley Henderson as recruits to the Resistance in the drama set in occupied France.

● WISH ME LUCK (ITV, tomorrow 7.15 pm)



Actress  
Catherine  
Scheil's love of  
horses helped  
her get the part  
of undercover  
leader,  
Virginia, in  
Wish Me Luck.

# OUR GIRLS GO UNDERCOVER



France. More than 12 million addicted viewers, hearts in their mouths, will watch this final series which begins on Sunday, January 7.

"This series has a new setting and several major new characters," explains producer Michael Chaplin, who also wrote some of the eight episodes. "But it also has the added power of being based on events that really happened. Towards the end of the war, the Resistance fighters in this area, which becomes Le Crest in our series, were encouraged by both the Allies and the Free French to stage an anti-Nazi rising on the plateau. Because of its rocky nature and the fact that only four roads have access to it, they thought they could hold the Germans off until reinforcements arrived."

Mustering their meagre supplies of weapons the Resistance, along with tattered remnants of the French army which had taken refuge on the plateau, staged their rebellion, and waited for support. It never came—but German troops did.

Now, for the first time in 45 years, German jackboots stride again through St Martin—but with costume department labels inside. And men who fought in the Resistance stand on chalk marks as *Wish Me Luck* extras. Fact and fiction mingle, with unnerving results.

Through all the rehearsals—with two tourist faces peering through the barricades and the whole crew herding one reluctant hen into position—local people look on and remember what war really meant. For if its role in the Resistance is one of the region's proudest moments, it also led to some of the most bloody. Whole villages were burnt and families shot in reprisal—elderly couple Jacob and Jeanne Madeleine were pushed up against a wall in front of a firing squad and left for two hours before the German officer changed his mind.

"We were burnt out of our home and fled to the woods," says 92-year-old Anna Eymard. "I put saucepans on my children's heads to try to protect them from bullets. Over 20 of us slept in a barn with cattle for three weeks."

Anna tells her story matter-of-factly as she eats her packed lunch in a filming break. She, and all the other extras who lived the drama *Wish Me Luck* is recreating, may shudder at the sight of swastikas fluttering in the village square. But, however romantic and glossy the telling, they want their story to be told. "We suffered too much. We want to show how it was, so others can understand."

Actress Catherine Schell, 42, joins *Wish Me Luck* as the agents' new leader Virginia. Her character is an upper-crust divorcee who lived in France before the war, when she was married to a French count. "But she divorces him at the very start of the war because of his politics, goes back to England and, because of her knowledge of French, starts working as an undercover agent. On one of her trips to France, which is where we pick up Virginia's story, she's sent back to this area, very near to where she lived when she

was married. As luck has it, she and her ex-husband Guy, who's played by Glyn Grain, do bump into each other. He, as the local head of police, is with the German SS, she's in disguise and using an alias, so she has to meet him to try to persuade him to change sides...

Contrary to her fragile looks and rather genteel background, Virginia is a very tough leader indeed—and that's just the way Catherine, who's appeared in everything from *Bergerac* to *Dr Who*, likes her. "I love playing hard ladies, and I think I'm so much better at it than playing soft wimps, which I used to play all the time when I was much younger. I'm quite strong myself, so I enjoy becoming Virginia very much. I love shouting at people early in the morning!"

For Catherine one experience in particular proves that *Wish Me Luck* is firmly rooted in reality. "I came out on a 'recce' with Bill to this area long before I had any idea I'd even be in the series. We went to see a little farmhouse. There, propped up against one of the crumbling outhouses and just rotting away, was the original canister that the Americans had dropped at the very battle we show in one of our episodes. In fact, the Americans were the only ones who dropped any sort of supplies to the Resistance, but they got it confused. Instead of the guns, ammunition and medical supplies the Resistance fighters needed so desperately, their 50 canisters were full of boots..."

The theme of uneasy French-English relations is central to the new £6 million series. And caught right in the middle is radio operator agent Emily, played by Jane Snowden, 25, who is one of the last series' few survivors.

"Emily's been undercover in France for over a year now. She's very tired, she's under stress, she makes mistakes," says Jane, who admits playing the, at times, unbelievably naive Emily isn't easy. "I get so irritated by her! She refuses to see beyond the end of her own nose. She gets too involved with people, she's not good at any kind of perspective, weighing things up. And she's pig-headed—not a very good agent really. She'd never make a leader!"

Although Emily has carried on her relationship with Resistance fighter Luc (Mark Anstee), Jane insists, "It's a love affair, but it's far from cosy! We have a lot of problems. The French-English problem obviously manifests itself in Luc and Emily's relationship. In another time, they might be able to make it work, but there's just too much pressure..."

No *Wish Me Luck* actress joins the series in search of glamour, although the girls do manage to keep on their lip gloss through the most harrowing scenes. "My total costume consists of one jacket, two skirts and a pair of trousers," says Jane. Original wartime outfits are too fragile to take all the diving into ditches and undercover work in the undergrowth the agents have to do, so two of each garment are specially made up in sturdy fabrics, then "distressed" to make them

look old and frayed. Jane's finishing touch is a pair of hefty hobnail boots.

Inner conflict, as well as outer, is the lot of a French character, Nicole, played by new recruit Felicity Montagu. A bubbly, fun-loving girl, Nicole is torn between the values of her father, a supporter of the pro-Nazi Petain regime, and the Resistance fighters she befriends after saving Emily's life. "Nicole is very much a victim, but she's a survivor, too," says Felicity. "There's a wonderful quote from the war along the lines of, I come first, I come second, I come third—that was the motto to survive."

Starring as Nicole is a long way from Felicity's recent roles, as Griselda in the ITV sitcom *Ffizz* and Celia Johnson in Harry Enfield's *Norbert Smith – A Life*. "I've been told my character won't be liked, but I don't think Nicole is a bad person. She gets caught up in a spiral and she can't actually stop what she's doing. She's a decent person, but she ends up doing things that horrify her."

As well as the new faces, including Trevor Peacock as Resistance leader Renard, other regular stars of *Wish Me Luck* are back. Michael J Jackson is Kit Vanston, and Jane Asher who, as Faith Ashley, controls the British end of the operation, gains an attractive new assistant in the form of French liaison officer Max Dubois (Damien Thomas). Even Kate Buffery's character Liz, invalided home at the end of the last series, is to make a surprise appearance.

The last word goes to the undercover leader, Virginia: "The whole story is so incredibly moving. Almost every single character is based on someone real, although we've romanticised the truth. Knowing the history of what happened here knowing how badly the English and the Free French let the fighters down in this area it's really quite shameful. And working side by side with French extras who've lived through it... all of that is very spooky indeed." ■

PRODUCED BY MICHAEL CHAPLIN  
SERIES NUMBER 23 DECEMBER 1991

from NEWS OF THE WORLD, not a quality newspaper, is one of those Catherine hates. Especially this story is about 15 years old. So, she says, why the hell are they bumping it out of the cellars. She reveals, only half of the article, if even, is the truth. The rest is simply fantasy. Well, guys, so don't take this too seriously when you read it. Actually, they print nice pictures, don't they?



GLORY GIRLS: Catherine with Wish Me Luck pals Felicity Montague (left) and Jane Snowden

REVEALED: Why st

# LOVE TO

By DAN SLATER

**W**ISH Me Luck's new TV secret agent Catherine Schell has told for the first time of the agony of her marriage break-up.

The former Bond beauty walked out on Gentle Touch star William Marlowe after they had been together seven years.

"It was totally traumatic," 42-year-old Catherine recalled. "We had been deeply in love."

"Bill was like a drug that I was taking every day—and once the drug was taken away I was in trouble."

## Alone

Stunning Catherine, who shot to fame in On Her Majesty's Secret Service, plays a high class divorcee dropped behind enemy lines in the latest series of wartime drama Wish Me Luck.

Recalling the end of her marriage to Marlowe, 57, Det. Chief Inspector Russell in the Gentle Touch, she said:

● Suddenly my whole life changed.

*Even the fact that Bill wasn't there snoring next to me at night hit me. I was alone.*

One day while driving around Trafalgar Square I suddenly had a near nervous breakdown.

I didn't know where I was, I didn't know how to drive the car or which direction to take. I was a bundle of torn nerves.

I was becoming anorexic. I just couldn't eat and was getting thinner and thinner. Food was disgusting to me.

In the first year after I left Bill I had some terrible times. But I never even considered



EX-HUBBY: TV cop Marlowe going back to him.

Our relationship was always up and down.

Bill was fourteen years older than me and I always imagined he would teach me something, that he would be a father figure.

But with him it was all highs and lows.

One minute everything was wonderful and he was very kind, sweet and romantic and then it was the pits.

*One day I was supposed to be smiling and loving and the next hollering and crying and very angry.*

I couldn't cope with that. It was making such a failure out of me.

I'm not that sort of person. I don't play games like that.

He was the sort of person who when things

'Life with

Bill was

all highs

and lows

were good would wa

to stir it up.

I don't understand a that. For me it doesn't lead to happiness.

We were totally unsuited temperamentally and it just became impossible to continue.

I came to a point in my life where I had to make a decision. Was going to stick with it or go? I chose to walk out.

I made only one mistake in marriage and think everyone I allowed one mistake.

Mine was that as an actress I should never have married an actor.

## Pressure

They should never marry each other. There's tremendous pressure when they do.

If you are both lucky enough to be working it means you're separated a great deal of the time.

And if one of you is working a lot and the other isn't there's the ego thing. It's very tough.

I didn't see Bill after we split up.

*Then I was offered a part in an episode of The Gentle Touch acting with him.*

The director was embarrassed when he realised I had been married.



Catherine dumped TV cop Marlowe

# WISH ME LUCK SPY GIRL



DOOMED MARRIAGE: Catherine and Bill before the rift

to one of the stars and was very apologetic.

He was worried we would be hostile to each other but I told him I didn't think we would be at each other's throats and Bill told him the same.

I ended up living with Bill's first wife, the actress Linda Marlowe.

We were both looking for somewhere to live so we decided to buy a house together. We always got on well.

Catherine is as upper crust in real life as the part she plays in Wish Me Luck.

She was born Baroness Catherine Schell von Bauschlott zu Nagioya in Hungary.

But when she was four years old her family fled the country's Communist regime.

Catherine is now married to Wish Me Luck director Bill Hays.

She said: "His temperament is very level.

"I feel I have a much more mature relationship with him."

But one heartache still mars her happiness with Bill—they can never have children.

She disclosed: "I very dearly want a baby but I

can't have one. It just never happened and nobody knows why.

"For a many years I have felt deeply upset by it.

"My mother said all she had to do was look at a man and she got pregnant.

"I've gone to numerous specialists and had operations—but still no baby.

"They all tell me they can't understand why. It's a mystery.

"Both my husbands had children so the reason did not lie with them.

"While I was with one famous specialist he took a call from a patient who was coming to him for an abortion.

"He said, 'Isn't it ironic. Here I am trying to discover why you can't have a baby and here is another patient getting rid of one. Life isn't very fair.'

"I thought how heart-rendingly true that was. I was deeply disturbed, and distraught. I could have gone to pieces.

"Now I have no hope. I must resign myself to being childless."





## REVIEW NO. 2:



LOOK BACK IN DARKNESS; (c) 1975, ITC; Color; About 75 min.

NOTE: The following review is based on an audio tape and my memory. If anyone of our US members has a VHS copy of the film and can dub it for me, please let me know by writing me at: 417 NE 18 Avenue/Pompano Beach, FL 33060-6543. I will be more than happy to supply the tape.

### Synopsis:

As the film opens, Stan Kay (Bradford Dillman) is giving a piano performance at a party when three men break in to rob the guests and the place that he is playing at. During the robbery, his wife is killed and he is blinded. Thus, the premise for the movie is established.

When the movie resumes, after the credits, it is ten years later and Mr. Kay is giving another performance at the home of Sir Peter Hastings. The party is for his daughter who is engaged to be married. Julie Gordon (Catherine Schell) is Stan Kay's agent and fan. Sir Peter is a wealthy wine merchant.

The party is now in full swing with friends of both Sir Peter and Claudia (his daughter) in attendance. As Mr. Kay is playing his piece, he hears a voice from the past! It is at this point that Stan Kay's worst nightmares come back to haunt him. The man who killed his wife and blinded him is AT THE party! Through his perfect hearing (he has perfect pitch), he is able to pick out the man's voice from the crowd. He now has to convince Julie of his greatest fear; the man from the past has returned.

At first he writes it off as imagination but, he can't get that voice out of his mind. He then begins his own investigation to try and find out who the voice that haunts him belongs to. He begins by explaining to Julie what happened ten years ago. Julie can't believe it because she knows that Sir Peter wouldn't associate with such criminals, at least knowingly. As he is explaining the situation, Kay senses that someone is standing outside the door. Julie opens it to find a Mr. Tamplin standing there. He is head of security for the party. They have a little spat and Tamplin apologizes for jumping to the conclusion that Mr. Kay may be up to something.

Mr. Kay asks Julie to take him around the main floor so that he can listen for the voice but, no luck. Julie still is skeptical but she continues to help Stan. As she is off getting him another drink, Kay hears that voice again. Kay goes in search of the voice by himself. Julie returns to help him search. They begin by searching the upstairs rooms. When they get to a room of coats, they begin to search them only to be stopped by Tamplin. They were looking for any clue to a man named Ludo who may hold the key to finding the man they are looking for. Tamplin, after hearing the explanation, agrees to check out Kay's story. He finds that the story about the robbery is true and begins an investigation of his

own. His investigation leads him to Sir Peter's wine seller. As Tamplin searches the wine seller for Ludo Bates, he himself is in danger from an unknown assailant. Bates is in the seller with a girl but, so is someone else. This someone ends up killing Tamplin.

Becoming concerned over Tamplin, Kay asks Julie to go and check on him. While Julie is away, Stan hears the voice again and tries to find out where it came from. All he gets is a knock on the head for his troubles, knocking him unconscious. When he (Mr. Kay) awakens, he explains that he was baited by the man he is looking for. They resume their investigation. Julie leaves Stan for a moment to go and find Tamplin. As she is looking for Tamplin, she suddenly hears the name Ludo. She finds him in a room with his girlfriend, drunk out of his mind. Despite this Julie tries to get the name of the man he was making a bet with over a wine. She has little success at first but, eventually she gets him to name the man.

While Julie is getting the man's name, Stan Kay gets Sir Peter to take him to the wine seller to sample some of his wine. While they are down there, Sir Peter gets a phone call from the States concerning a wine deal. But he soon realizes that the phone call is a hoax and also realizes that Mr. Kay is in trouble from the man that he has been looking for. He and Julie rush down there to find that Tamplin is dead and that Stan Kay has nearly beaten to death Alan Richards, one of the men who robbed the people at an engagement ten years before. The man wanted Kay dead to protect his identity since he is now a successful businessman.

Finally, Julie and Stan seem to be in more than just an agent/client relationship. At the end of the film, one gets the feeling that they have formed a bond between one another. He asks her to stay close.

All in all this is a very fine film. The two main characters are very strong and Bradford Dillman and Catherine Schell do a very good job of portraying them. The script by Johnny Byrne is intelligent and well written. I hope that everyone in the group will be able to see this film eventually. I'd like to see what others who have seen it think about it.

Kerry Keene

Please find Review 1 of the movie RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER on page 4 in this issue.





# TELEVISION GUIDE

## ENGLAND:

WISH ME LUCK is on every Sunday at 7:15 p.m. for eight weeks from January 7 (ITV).

Last year, on November 1st and 2nd the magazine DAYTIME LIVE featured scenes from the set of HOWARD'S WAY. Catherine is included in a small scene with actress Jan Harvey (BBC).

THIS IS YOUR LIFE (see page 2) was shown November 8th (BBC).

THE RETURN OF THE PINK PANTHER was on December 23rd (BBC1).

## AMERICA:

The series ONE BY ONE has recently been shown on several stations.

## GERMANY:

BLACK WINDMILL was on December 4th (Nord 3).

MOON ZERO TWO (Banditen auf dem Mond = Bandits on the moon) was shown for the first time on Television in Germany on December 6th (SAT 1).

ON THE BLACK HILL will be shown on TV in October of 1990 (ARD).

## ITALY:

BLACK WINDMILL (Il caso drabble) was shown on January 7th (RAI 2).

MOON ZERO TWO (Luna zero due) was broadcasted on February 9th (Rete 7 Piemonte)

### ADVERTISEMENT

If you like the Television series CHICAGO 1930 (THE UNTOUCHABLES), you can join the Chicago 1930 Fanclub in Germany. Four times per year you will receive the clubmagazine 'Uncle Sam' and you can buy memorabilia at cheap prices. For further information please write to: Chicago 1930 Fanclub, Ralf Jansen, Diemstr. 36, D-5100 Aachen, West-Germany.



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AN 'X' IN  
THIS RING  
MEANS IT'S  
TIME TO  
PAY DUES  
FOR ANOTHER  
YEAR !